

What is claimed is:

1           1.       A combination of a tennis racquet equipped with a ball retrieving attachment  
2 attached to a shoulder of the racquet in a ball retrieving position, said attachment comprising a  
3 hooked fastener material adhesively attached to a convex outer perimeter portion of the shoulder,  
4 with said hooked fastener material having a series of pre-shrunken nylon monofilament hooks  
5 characterized as having an average monofilament diameter greater than 8.0 mil and an average  
6 hook height of at least 1.70 mm.

1           2.       The combination according to claim 1 wherein the hooks are further characterized  
2 as having an average hook width of at least 1.0 mm.

1           3.       The combination according to claim 2 wherein the hooks are further characterized  
2 as having an average hook depth of greater than 0.5 mm.

1           4.       The combination according to claim 1 wherein the average height of the hooks is  
2 at least 1.85 mm, the average diameter is at least 8.25 mil and the attachment is further  
3 characterized as having an average hook width of at least 1.0 mm and an average hook depth of  
4 at least 0.60 mm.

1           5.       The combination according to claim 4 wherein the attachment contains at least  
2 250 hooks per square inch with the series being an arrangement of repetitive rows of the hooks.

1           6.       The combination according to claim 5 wherein the attachment comprises the  
2 hooks mounted to a rubber backing with a pressure sensitive adhesive for detachably mounting  
3 the attachment to the shoulder of the racquet.

1           7.       The combination according to claim 5 wherein the attachment is applied as a  
2 continuous strip to the shoulder of the racquet at a tennis ball retrieving position.

1           8.       The combination according to claim 7 wherein the attachment is positioned along  
2 an outer peripheral edge of the shoulder between an eight o'clock and four o'clock position.

1           9.       The combination according to claim 6 wherein the attachment contains at least  
2 300 hooks per square inch, the average height of the hooks is greater than about 1.90 mm, the

average hook width ranges from about 1.1 mm to about 1.3 mm and the average hook depth ranges from about 0.65 mm to about 0.75 mm.

10. A method for retrieving grounded tennis balls with a tennis racquet equipped with a ball retrieving attachment attached along an outer peripheral edge of a shoulder of the tennis racquet, said method comprising:

a) providing a strip of a hooked material having a pressure sensitive adhesive applied to a resilient backing member equipped with a plurality of nylon monofilament hooks of an average monofilament diameter of at least 0.8 mil, an average hook height of at least 1.85 mm, an average hook width of at least 1.0 mm, and an average depth of at least 0.6 mm, with the hooks being of a spiral configuration arranged in repetitive rows of at least 250 hooks per square inch;

b) applying the pressure sensitive strip to the outer peripheral edge of the shoulder of the tennis racquet;

c) tangentially contacting a grounded tennis ball onto the strip so as to engage and hook a tennis ball nap onto the hooks of the strip;

d) lifting the hooked tennis ball with the tennis racquet; and

e) retrieving the lifted tennis ball from the strip.

11. The method according to claim 10 wherein the method includes the applying of the strip at a contacting position between a nine o'clock to a three o'clock position of the shoulder.

12. The method according to claim 10 wherein the average monofilament diameter is at least 8.25 mil, the average height is at least 1.90 mm, the average hook is at least 1.05 mm, and the average hook depth is at least 0.65 mm.

13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the applying includes the applying of at least one strip positioned along the peripheral edge located from a nine o'clock position to about a three o'clock position.

14. The method according to claim 13 wherein the strip covers the nine o'clock position and the three o'clock position.

15. The method according to claim 13 wherein a continuous strip is applied to the shoulder.